

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

# CROSSWORDS



April 2026



## Worship Schedule

WEDNESDAYS 6:30PM

SUNDAYS 9:30AM

*Digital Ministry options are  
available at [www.lcc-wf.com](http://www.lcc-wf.com)*

### *In This Issue:*

- Council Update
- What's New With Faith Education
- Confirmation Updates
- High School Ministry
- Women's Bible Study
- Men's Bible Study
- West Fargo Eats Update

# PASTOR'S MESSAGE

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This spring and summer at Lutheran Church of the Cross, we're reading through the book of Acts as a congregation. We're inviting you to join us as the story of the early church teaches us what happens after Jesus ascends to heaven and the disciples are doing all the ministry.

## **A Little Bit About the Book of Acts**

The book of Acts is a remarkable part of the New Testament. The only "sequel," Acts is written by the author of Luke and picks up right after Easter. In the first chapter, Jesus ascends into heaven, and the disciples aren't exactly sure what to do with Jesus gone. But, they soon receive the gift of the Holy Spirit and the Christian Church begins!

A sense of community is one of the driving forces in the book of Acts. The Holy Spirit may be leading the disciples out into the world, but it's the community that supports them in the midst of hardship, stress, and persecution.

The church that begins after Jesus' departure does amazing ministry because of the Holy Spirit and their community.

The disciples cure people of disease, cast out demons, but most importantly, they bring the good news of God's eternal love and grace for all people.



# PASTOR'S MESSAGE

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## **What We'll Be Doing**

This spring and summer, we hope that you will join us as we journey through the book of Acts as a congregation. Join us as we not only read about the church, but also actively work to build up our church and community. The mission of the church is not only the worship of God, but the mutual support and building up of the community of God. We are then given the gift of the Holy Spirit which sends us out to bring the Gospel to those around us.

Our plan is to read roughly one chapter of the book of Acts per week, which, surprisingly, is about five minutes of reading per week. But, this five minutes could have a profound impact on your sense of understanding and engagement with God and the church. In addition to reading the book of Acts, Pastor Joel and I will be preaching on the chapter we're reading as a congregation each week. And I saved the best for last: we'll be gathering every other week to do some bible study and community building throughout the spring and summer!

## **Now the Really Fun Part!**

As you'll see in the list below, we'll be doing a variety of activities to have some fun together and build some community spirit, as well as spend time deepening the conversation about how God is at work in the book of Acts. Our community bible fellowship activities are described below. More details will come out as get closer to each date, but this gives you an idea how we plan to gather and celebrate our community, as well as learning more about God and the Holy Spirit's call for our lives.

# PASTOR'S MESSAGE

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## **May 20th - Appetizers and Dessert potluck at LCC**

We'll gather after worship to enjoy some apps and desserts and spend some time getting to know the first few chapters of the book of Acts better. (This would be a great time to connect with the book of Acts if you've been unable thus far.)

## **June 3rd - Church Picnic**

Our annual Church Picnic - location to be determined.

## **June 17th - Theology on Tap**

After worship, we'll reconvene to a local establishment to talk Acts over a beer, wine, or soda.

## **July 15th - Campfire at LCC (Grilling available)**

We'll gather at our firepit after worship to enjoy the outdoors and reflect upon Acts.

## **July 29th - Recreation time and Bible study**

You'll have the opportunity to do some crafts, or some hiking or biking as well as bible fellowship.

## **Aug. 13th - (Thursday afternoon!!) Service Night - West Fargo Eats Pop Up**

We will have an opportunity to join West Fargo Eats as they have their monthly Pop-Up Food Distribution. Time for reflection afterwards.

*Journey through*

# ACTS

*Holy Spirit*



*Learn & Grow*



*Discipleship*

**Bible Study  
Fellowship Events**



- May 20
- June 3
- June 17
- July 15
- July 29
- August 13

# *Journey through*

# ACTS

## STUDY SCHEDULE

APR 6-12	CH. 1	JUN 22-28	CH. 15
APR 13-19	CH. 2 & 3	JUN 29-JUL 5	CH. 16
APR 20-26	CH. 4	JUL 6-12	CH. 17
APR 27-MAY 3	CH. 5 & 6	JUL 13-19	CH. 18
MAY 4-10	CH. 7	JUL 20-26	CH. 19 & 20
MAY 11-17	CH. 8	JUL 27-AUG 2	CH. 21 & 22
MAY 18-24	CH. 9	AUG 3-9	CH. 23 & 24
MAY 25-31	CH. 10	AUG 10-16	CH. 25
JUN 1-7	CH. 11	AUG 17-23	CH. 26
JUN 8-14	CH. 12	AUG 24-30	CH. 27
JUN 15-21	CH. 13 & 14	AUG 31-SEP 6	CH. 28



# COUNCIL UPDATE



Greetings LCC,

As we continue in the season of Easter, I am filled with gratitude for the joy, hope, and renewed promise we experienced together celebrating Christ's resurrection. Thank you to all who contributed their time, gifts, and presence to make this season so meaningful for our congregation.

I want to share a few important updates as we look ahead. We have decided to slow the pace of our Capital Campaign, including a pause in construction activities. This intentional pause has provided us with the opportunity to extend our youth education program and ensure good stewardship as we look ahead.

The Council will continue in deliberation and preparation, with the intention of sharing more details about the Capital Campaign in the fall. During this time, we remain committed to transparency, listening, and prayerful discernment about the future of LCC.

Additionally, I am pleased to share that the Call Committee has been reengaged as we begin the process of searching for a new part-time Pastor. This is an important and hopeful step as we seek leadership that will help meet the evolving needs of our congregation.

As always, thank you for your continued support, generosity, and trust.

God Bless,  
Mitch Wolden  
LCC Church Council President



# PROPERTY UPDATE

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## Property Happenings

Do you have a little spring fever? The recent record April snowfall may have prolonged winter, but spring can't be too far off. Likewise, we've experienced a delay with the anticipated work on the Crossway Center roof. You can't perform a water test with snow on the roof. Hopefully, that will be a short delay as the weather improves. We'll all be happy to see sunshine and temperatures consistently above freezing.

The Property Committee will be meeting this month to discuss and prioritize projects within its purview. These projects include, but are not limited to, security camera upgrades and expansion to areas not currently covered; painting fascia around the roofline of the southwestern classroom and fellowship hall area; and addressing the stained-glass window in the hospitality room.

Recently completed work includes new dimmer switches in the sanctuary. At the end of last year, several sanctuary lights were replaced and upgraded to LED. LED lighting is always preferred. Even with a higher initial cost, this type of lighting pays for itself in relatively short order through reduced electric bills. The dimmer switches, which control almost all the lights in the sanctuary, are located near the sound and video control booth. The panel where they are located was also painted to match the wall, making them much less intrusive and keeping the worship space looking a little less industrial.

The men's and women's restrooms just behind the sanctuary were upgraded with motion-detection switches. For both cost savings and convenience, the lights and fans now turn on when you enter and will shut off shortly after the last person departs.

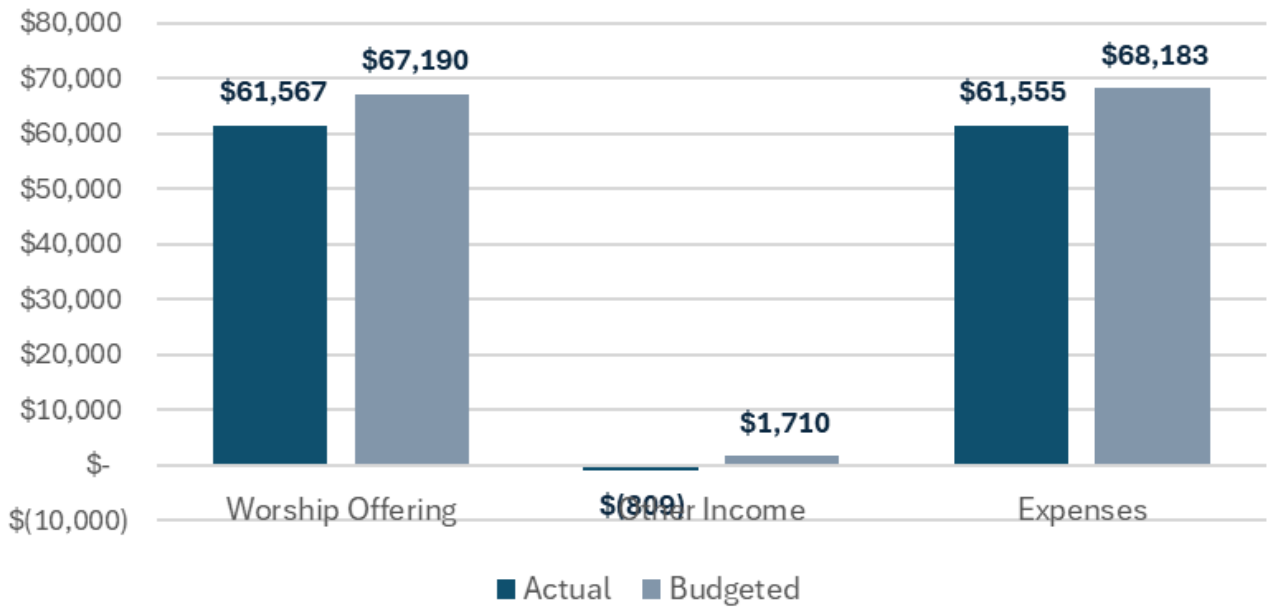
We hope you enjoy your experience at the church. Our custodian, Alfredo, keeps the space clean and inviting week in and week out. Whether you have an immediate concern or something longer term, please don't hesitate to bring it to our attention. Reaching us via the church office is the most expedient option.

Karl Gunderson  
Property Manager

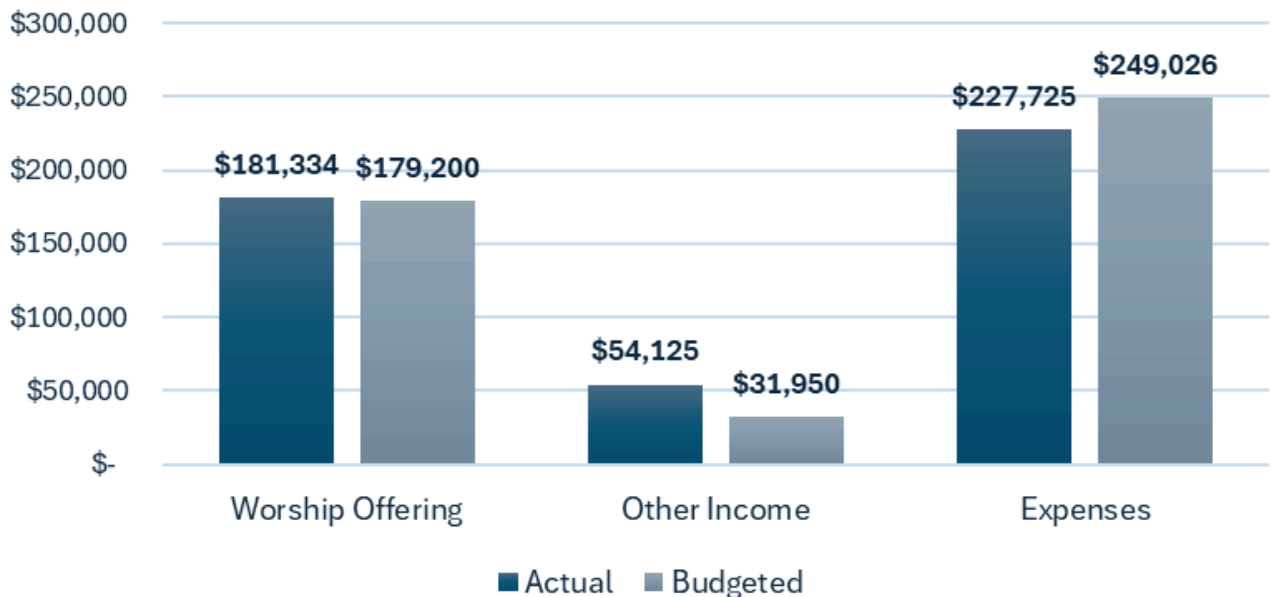
# FINANCIAL UPDATE



## General Operating - March 2026



## 2026 Year-to-Date



Save the date!

# LCC IN THE PARK

ALL are invited! Come for an evening of good food, community, and fun!



## Wednesday, June 3rd

More information  
to come!



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

# CHURCH SCHOOL & MILESTONES @ LCC

## Church School is led by INCREDIBLE Volunteers!!

Church School is only possible because of volunteers! Please prayerfully consider teaching and leading alongside our amazing kids! Find a friend (or 3) and lead together or rotate each week. Our goal is to have (at least) 2 Leaders per class/group.

Leader Needs:

- Wednesday 5:30pm
- Wednesday 6:30pm
- Sunday 9:30am

## Milestone Ministries @ LCC

Each month an age or grade level and their families are invited to engage with faith in a new way. We'll wonder about Bible stories, learn about creation, discover the sacraments, and so much more. Let's equip, engage, and empower faith together!

*Look for info at the end of the summer on Milestone dates and times!*



Sign Up



Volunteer

Lutheran Church of the Cross



Vacation Bible School 2026

May 26<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup>



# Church School @LCC

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

# FALL REGISTRATION!



# CONFIRMATION @LCC



# LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

## 6<sup>TH</sup>-12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

### JUNE

	1	2 HS NIGHT GAMES @8PM-10:30PM	3	4	5	6
7 SENIOR SUPPER @6:30	8	9	10 HS BIBLE STUDY @6:45PM	11	12	13
14	15	16 MS POOL DAY @5:30-7:30	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	MS = MIDDLE SCHOOL HS = HIGH SCHOOL			
HIGH SCHOOL CANOE TRIP						

### JULY

			1	2	3	4
			HIGH SCHOOL CANOE TRIP			
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
LCC @ LUTHER CREST						
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 MS POOL DAY @5:30-7:30	22 HS BIBLE STUDY @6:45PM	23	24	25
26 SENIOR SUPPER @6:30	27	28 HS POOL DAY @5:30-7:30	29	30	31	

### AUGUST

EMAIL ADRIANNA@LCC-WF.COM WITH ANY QUESTIONS & TO RSVP						1
2	3	4	5	6 VALLEYFAIR 7 <sup>TH</sup> -12 <sup>TH</sup> GR.	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 SENIOR SUPPER @6:30	17	18 MS GAME NIGHT @5:30-7:30	19 HS BIBLE STUDY @6:45PM	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 HS BONFIRE @6:45PM	27 FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL	28	29

### JUNE

- 2nd - High School Outdoor Night Games @LCC, 8-10:30PM
- 7th - Senior Supper @6:30pm  
Incoming & outgoing seniors meet @LCC for supper & fellowship
- 10th - HS Bible Study @ 6:45pm  
Meet after worship @ the LCC bonfire ring or in the youth room, weather dependant  
Bring a bible & a friend!
- 16th - Middle School Pool Day @5:30pm  
Meet at Veterans Memorial pool  
Bring a swimsuit, towel, \$5 for entry, & snack money!
- 28th - 7/3 - LCC HS Canoe Trip

### JULY

- 5<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> - LCC staff will be at Camp!
- 21st - Middle School Pool Day @5:30pm  
Meet at Veterans Memorial pool!  
Bring a swimsuit, towel, \$5 for entry, & snack money!
- 22nd - High School Bible Study @ 6:45pm  
meet at the LCC bonfire ring or in the youth room, weather dependant!
- 26th - Senior Supper @6:30pm  
Incoming & outgoing seniors meet @LCC for supper & fellowship
- 28th - High School Pool Day @5:30pm  
@Veterans Memorial Pool

### AUGUST

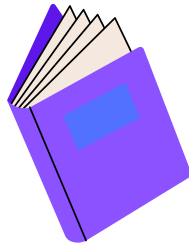
- 6th: 7th - 12<sup>th</sup> grade ValleyFair Day Trip!  
More details to come via email!
- 16th - Senior Supper @6:30pm  
Meet @LCC for supper & fellowship!
- 18th - Middle School Game Night  
y @5:30pm-7:30pm  
@LCC in the Youth Room!
- 19th - High School Bible Study @6:45pm
- 26th - High School Bonfire @6:45pm  
Hot dogs & smores provided!

# SUMMER 2026

# UPDATES

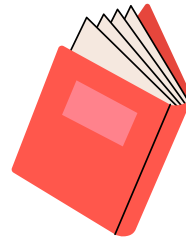
## Novel Ideas

May 21, 2026 @ 10am



**Beautiful Ugly**  
Alice Feeney

June 18, 2026 @ 10am

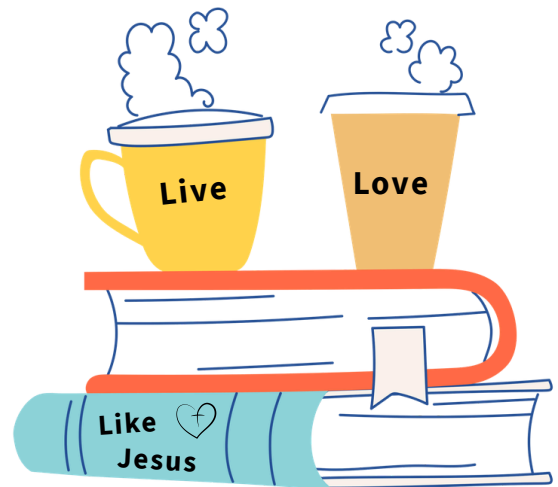


**Apostle's Cove**  
by William Kent Krueger

July 16, 2026 @ 10am

**The Correspondent**  
by Virginia Evans

Anyone is welcome to attend; even if you just want to come once in a while to enjoy the discussion of the book-of-the-month if that's what interests you.



Lutheran Church of the Cross

# UPDATES

## Piecemaker Quilting Group



The Piecemaker Quilting Group will meet the following dates:

**May 14th** - 9:30am    **June 11th** - 9:30am    **June 25<sup>th</sup>** - 9:30 am

**July 9<sup>th</sup>** - 9:30am    **July 23<sup>rd</sup>** - 9:30 am

Everyone is welcome! Contact Pat at [pkmaas@yahoo.com](mailto:pkmaas@yahoo.com)  
with any questions.

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

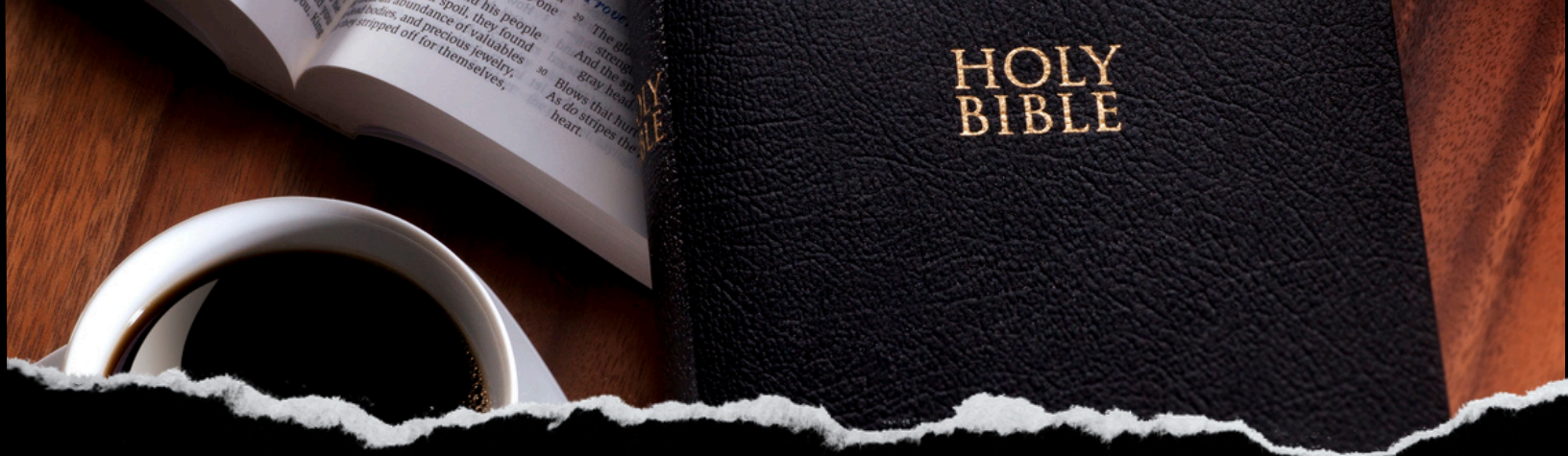
# LIFE EVENTS



## Baptized into Christ

**Elliott Heald**  
**Barrett Kummeth**  
**Wren Bernhardson**





# MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

TUESDAYS 6:30AM-7:30AM

Men's Bible Study meets weekly from 6:30am-7:30am or whenever you need to leave. To get on the email list or with questions, reach out to Pastor Joel ([jbaranko@lcc-wf.com](mailto:jbaranko@lcc-wf.com)). The last meeting for the season is May 13th.

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# WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

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Tuesdays from 12:00-1:00pm

All women are invited to gather for Women's Bible Study in the Hospitality Room (found across the hallway from the sanctuary). We begin with coffee and fellowship before spending time looking more closely at the Bible. You are welcome to attend any Tuesday.

Questions?

Reach out to Pastor Erick ([pastorerick@lcc-wf.com](mailto:pastorerick@lcc-wf.com))



## West Fargo Eats. Updates

West Fargo Eats has been busy and truly blessed since our last newsletter! In February, we were honored to receive a \$1,000 grant from the Blue Cross Caring Foundation to help implement our new School Tote Exchange Program.



### February Highlights

- 232 visits
- 578 individuals served
  - 168 children | 236 adults | 174 seniors
- 216 volunteer hours
- 6,906 pounds of food distributed
- 471.4 pounds shared with partner agencies

### March Highlights

On March 10, we held a special one-hour distribution event, serving 80 families (248 individuals) and distributing 2,032 pounds of food.

### Special Distribution Breakdown

- 80 visits
- 248 individuals
  - 85 children | 104 adults | 59 seniors



March was also filled with incredible community support through food drives:

### Community Food Drives

- Boy Scouts (March 14):
  - Pack 234: 243 lbs
  - Troop 213: 306 lbs
  - Pack 232: 422 lbs
  - Troop 279: 873 lbs
  - **Total: 1,844 lbs**
- Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church  
"Fill the Pew" (March 24):
  - 533 lbs collected



Combined with ongoing bin donations, a total of **3,476 pounds** of food was donated in March.

We also launched our **School Tote Exchange Program** on March 13, sharing 145.2 pounds of food with local students.

### March Totals (Including Special Distribution & Tote Program)

- 340 visits
- 916 individuals served
  - 279 children | 382 adults | 255 seniors
- 289.75 volunteer hours
- 9,846 pounds of food distributed
- 1,744 pounds shared with partner agencies



Thank you to our volunteers, donors, and community partners for making all of this possible. Your continued support helps us live out our mission to fight hunger in our community every day.

A special thank you to you—the congregation of Lutheran Church of the Cross. Every prayer, every donated item placed in our bins, and every volunteer hour makes a meaningful difference. West Fargo Eats truly belongs to all of us, and you show your care and commitment every day.

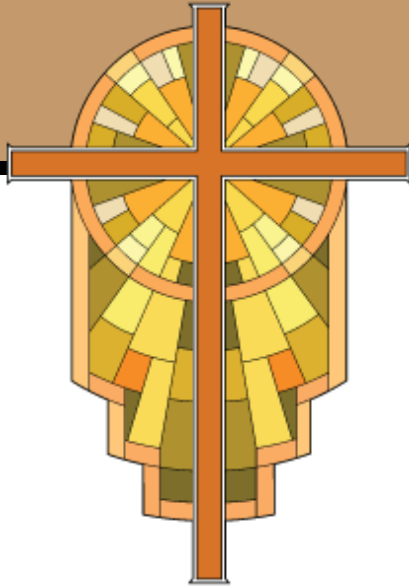
If you're interested in learning more or getting involved, we would love to connect—please reach out anytime.

**Blessings,  
Chelsie Bormann  
Director West Fargo Eats.**



# LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

1402 16TH ST E  
WEST FARGO ND 58078  
(701) 282-0514



## Contact Us:

**Pastor Joel Baranko: [jbaranko@lcc-wf.com](mailto:jbaranko@lcc-wf.com)**

**Pastor Erick Thompson: [pastorerick@lcc-wf.com](mailto:pastorerick@lcc-wf.com)**

**Adrianna Carlson, Christian Ed & Youth Director: [adrianna@lcc-wf.com](mailto:adrianna@lcc-wf.com)**

**Chad Svenby, Dir. of Music & Arts Ministry: [csvenby@lcc-wf.com](mailto:csvenby@lcc-wf.com)**

**Bianca McCullum, Bell Choir & Choir Director: [mccullumbianca@gmail.com](mailto:mccullumbianca@gmail.com)**

**Alanna Rerick - Choir Accompanist**

**Chelsie Bormann, West Fargo Eats Director: [chelsie@lcc-wf.com](mailto:chelsie@lcc-wf.com)**

**Jes Splichal, Office Manager: [office@lcc-wf.com](mailto:office@lcc-wf.com)**